

Q & A with senior Danielle Bemis



PHOTO BY KEVIN FIORENZO/
BEHREND BEACON

So far this season Bemis has been named AMCC player of the week along with hitting the 1000 kill mark.

by Adam Massaro
staff writer

Beacon: How did it feel to attain the 1000 career kill mark?

Bemis: It felt like a lot of hard work has paid off and that I have wanted to make a place for myself in the record books, it felt really good. It was one of my individual goals for season.

Beacon: How did the team help you reach 1000?

Bemis: Our defense had really helped, because we are putting a lot more balls up, it gave me more chances to get kills.

Beacon: How will you use your senior leadership to help the team on the court?

Bemis: I think communication will be vital. Being vocal has helped the team mature. I just try to stay composed and lead by example.

Beacon: How will the regular season match on Saturday against Frostburg help the team gauge its progress?

Bemis: The first time we lost in three to them. Even if we don't beat them, which I have complete confidence we can, if we go to four or five games that will give us more confidence to meet them in the championships.

Beacon: Strategically how will these regular season games benefit the team, come tournament play?

Bemis: We know other team's tendencies, where they hit and the practice before those games we can try to game plan for them by focusing on their tendencies.

Beacon: The team is 10-12 right now. What areas do the team need to improve before the tournament?

Bemis: We really need to focus on our passing and cut down on our hitting errors that would be a huge factor. In the next couple of weeks we will gain confidence and hopefully that will click for us.

Beacon: What are the strong points the team can rely on in the future to get it through tough matches?

Bemis: Our defense; we are pretty scrappy and I think that if we rely on that and we are also a tough serving team. I think those will always been there for us pull on.

Beacon: Being a veteran player, how does this team compare to previous years?

Bemis: We have a lot more potential this year, our bench is deeper, with players who can come in, if someone is having a bad game. I think that is going to be really healthy. We are better then I think we have been but we are not there yet. In the next couple of weeks if we make the little adjustments—we can win it all.

Women's soccer team struggles with non-conference schedule

by Rachel Lyon
staff writer

Another week, another roller coaster ride for the Penn State Behrend Lady Lions. Behrend met their toughest challenge yet this year, taking on Allegheny in a losing effort, Thursday.

Behrend began the week with a 4-0 win over Bethany College on Saturday. Then Monday, at home, the Lady Lions were crushed by the Wolverines of Grove City 6-0. The 1-0 loss Thursday against Allegheny led to a 1-2 record for the week.

Going into Thursday's game, against regionally fourth-ranked Allegheny, Head Coach Dan Perritano wanted his team to "defend well and stay composed."

The Lady Lions played tight defense, allowing only one goal in the 77th minute. The Gators' Jill Malone scored on a pass from teammate Jen Belic on a two-on-one break. Pressure by the Gators' offense was felt all night on the Lady Lions' defense, led by senior Mandy Gesuale. Sophomore goalkeeper Dara Nielsen also made key stops to keep Behrend in the game.

"We kept up with them," said senior forward Erin Maurer. "Playing a team like this helps us prepare for Frostburg."

The Gators came to Behrend riding high on a nine-game winning streak, which now goes to 10, improving Allegheny's record to 11-1-1. Behrend's record drops to 9-5.

Despite finishing 1-2 for the week, Behrend started out on a winning note Saturday. After losing to Case Western Reserve on Oct. 8, the Lady Lions bounced back against Bethany College on Saturday, winning 4-0. Sophomore Jill Vroman had the only first half goal for the Lady Lions. Behrend exploded in the second half with three goals, including two from Maurer. Sophomore Kacie Burns also added another second-half goal.

"It was important to put up another win on the board," said Perritano. "We needed to revisit our identity and get back on track."

On Monday, the Behrend Lady Lions took on Grove



City College at the Behrend Fields. Grove City's Kate Klingensmith scored in the seventh minute and the Wolverines never looked back, racking up five more goals by the game's end. Klingensmith finished with two goals. Michelle Novolsel, Leah Partridge, Autumn Hubbard, and All-American Meg Tilley added a goal apiece for the Wolverines. Grove City improved to 8-3-1.

"We just need to put this one behind us, said Perritano, who acknowledged a similar position his team was in after the loss to Case Western. After the losses to Grove City and Allegheny, Behrend is now on a two game losing streak, the longest of the year.

The Lady Lions will try to recover in next week's AMCC games.

After playing four consecutive non-conference games, the Lady Lions will pick up play against two AMCC teams next week.

Although Perritano said, "We're talented enough to beat those teams," he also said "we still have to take it one game at a time."

Maurer also believes her team is ready to bring home two wins next week. Behrend, 3-0 in conference play, will go on the road to face Lake Erie College (2-11-1, 0-3 AMCC) on Tuesday, Oct. 21 and Penn State Altoona (3-9, 1-2 AMCC) on Saturday, Oct. 25.

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